



Gloucestershire

COUNTY COUNCIL

County Council

Wednesday 13 September 2023 at 10.00 am

Chief Executive

A G E N D A

Chair's Opening of Council

“May we find wisdom to carry out our duties, humanity to listen to all, the courage to do what is right and the generosity to treat each other with respect.”

1	APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE
2	MINUTES (Pages 1 - 18)
3	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST Please see Note (b) at the end of the agenda.
4	ANNOUNCEMENTS Please see the briefing note, which does not accompany this agenda but will be circulated prior to the meeting.

5 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

Up to 30 minutes is allowed for this item.

To answer any written public questions about matters which are within the powers and duties of the County Council.

The closing date for receipt of questions was 10am on Monday, 4 September 2023. However, questions that relate to reports on the agenda may be submitted up to 10am on Wednesday, 6 September 2023.

Please send questions to the Chief Executive marked for the attention of Stephen Bace (email stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk)

Questions received and proposed responses do not accompany this agenda but will be circulated prior to the meeting.

6 CORPORATE PARENTING

7 PETITIONS

8 MOTIONS (Pages 19 - 26)

The Council's Constitution provides for a maximum of two hours for debate on motions. The time limit for member speeches is three minutes and the time limit for proposing a motion is five minutes.

In accordance with Procedural Rule 10.2 in Part 4 of the Council Constitution, the Chief Executive has prepared a short accompanying note for each motion in respect of any implications for climate change, resources, human rights and any other pertinent factors they may wish to include in accordance with the Council's Policy Framework.

Motion 925: Flooding

Proposed: Cllr David Drew

Seconded: Cllr Graham Morgan

Council notes its role as the Lead Local Flood Authority and its responsibilities and powers to manage flooding, identify communities at highest risk and install flood alleviation measures to protect those properties in partnership with the district councils.

Gloucestershire has been impacted by increasingly frequent flooding in recent years including the torrential downpours experienced on the night of 12 June 2023. We note that the County Highways Adverse Weather Plan states that its action plans have been tested after the events in 2007, 2012, 2014, 2019 and 2020.



These events are set to increase as a consequence of climate change. Council resolves to convene an urgent summit of all those agencies responsible for flood prevention and resilience to discuss how adequate plans can be put in place and tested to reduce the ongoing threat of flooding and the responses to it, including the Council's own Adverse Weather Plan and other action plans.

Motion 926: Hunting with dogs on Council land

Proposed: Cllr Wendy Thomas

Seconded: Cllr Steve Robinson

Council is alarmed at the evidence that hundreds of foxes up and down the country, and here in Gloucestershire, are being illegally killed as a result of hunting with dogs.

We welcome the Council decision of 27 October 1993 to prohibit access to any Council land or property over which it has legal control by persons and/or organisations engaged in using hounds for the purpose of hunting animals.

We further welcome that, subsequently, fox hunting, deer hunting and hare hunting with dogs has been made illegal under the terms of the Hunting Act 2004, except where an exemption applies.

We are, however, alarmed that Gloucestershire has recently been identified as the top county in England and Wales for suspected illegal hunting with reports that illegal hunting with dogs by organised hunts is common, while there are few prosecutions.

We note that most registered hunts claim to be 'trail' hunting, which has proven to be a loophole in the Hunting Act 2002, growing after the ban, which has allowed hunts to claim that any chase of a wild animal is an accident rather than intentional.

We note that there have been distressing local incidents reported in the media which have caused widespread public concern. We are ashamed that Gloucestershire has been identified nationally as having the largest number of suspected illegal hunts and incidents of 'hunt havoc' in the recent hunting season.

Council therefore resolves to:

- 1) Prohibit trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets on land that is owned and controlled by Gloucestershire County Council.
- 2) Introduce a clause into any new farm tenancy that trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets will not take place on land rented from Gloucestershire County Council.
- 3) Seek a voluntary agreement with existing tenants that trail hunting, exempt hunting, hound exercise and hunt meets will not take place on land rented from Gloucestershire County Council.

4) Support calls for the Hunting Act 2004 to be strengthened.

Motion 927: Fostering motion

Proposer: Cllr Stephen Davies

Seconder: Cllr Andrew Miller

Council notes:

- *There are over 800 children in the care of Gloucestershire County Council.*
- *We have approximately 250 in house foster carers, but we need many more to meet growing demand.*
- *Nationally and locally, recruiting and retaining sufficient foster carers is an enormous challenge.*
- *That all elected members, as corporate parents, have a responsibility to help us recruit new foster carers so that we can create a resilient, diverse and caring foster parent network that can meet the needs of all children in our care.*

Whilst Council accepts that the responsibility for recruiting and retaining Foster Carers sits with Officers within the Council, that Councillors (as corporate parents) can assist by:

- *Sharing information on foster carer recruitment across all of our networks so that we can ensure the message gets out countywide across variety of platforms. This can include:*
 - *Sharing information about foster recruitment on social media*
 - *Adding a link to <https://www.gloucestershire.gov.uk/fostering/> onto email signatures*
 - *Adding a section on foster recruitment to our local newsletters/ updates if this is appropriate, and not attached to any party political messaging*
 - *Sharing information on foster recruitment with parish and town councils, local schools and religious venues so that these groups can also help to disseminate information. Writing to our district councillor colleagues and members of parliament to ask them to share this information on their social media too to ensure that the message gets out as wide as possible*

https://content.govdelivery.com/attachments/UKGLOUCESTERSHIRE/2022/10/14/file_attachments/2298602/GCC_2786%20Fostering%20Generic%20A4%20Poster_AW.pdf

Motion 928: Refugee motion

Proposer: Cllr Stephan Fifield

Seconder: Cllr Mark Hawthorne

The conflicts and unrest in Ukraine, Syria and Afghanistan have forced many people to make Gloucestershire their home – often leaving suddenly and without loved ones. Across our county, our communities have welcomed and supported these refugees. Many people including teachers, healthcare professionals, religious groups, charities, and council staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure we are able to provide essential support to those who have come to Gloucestershire after fleeing conflict in their own countries. Currently, there are around 1500 refugees resettled in Gloucestershire under the several government resettlement schemes:

- Since 1 April 2022, 1528 Ukrainian guests have arrived in Gloucestershire under the Homes for Ukraine scheme (HFU). These guests have been welcomed into the homes of 793 generous host families. Originally, HFU was designed to last 6-12 months. However, it has now been extended beyond the originally conceived timescales due to the ongoing conflict in Ukraine. Currently there are 355 households still hosting Ukrainian guests in Gloucestershire.
- There are also a further 300 Ukrainians living with other family members in Gloucestershire under the Ukrainian Family Scheme.
- In April 2021, the government launched the Afghan Relocations and Assistance Policy (ARAP) and the Afghan citizen Resettlement Scheme (ACRS). We have committed to resettling 35 Afghan families under the ARAP/ACRS with 31 families currently resettled in the county. We have welcomed 127 Afghan individuals in County across these two schemes.

The Syrian Resettlement Programme was announced by the government in September 2015 and converted to the UK resettlement scheme in April 2021. So far, 93 families (379 people) from Syria and other countries have been supported to resettle in the county under the Gloucestershire Refugee Resettlement Programme (GRRP).

We are proud to be such a welcoming county and pay tribute to all the people in our communities who have helped make Gloucestershire home to so many people in their time of greatest need. In particular, council would like to thank:

- The hosts on the HFU scheme who have opened their family homes to welcome those displaced by war.
- Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers (GARAS) who provide critical support to refugees and asylum seekers living in Gloucestershire, including casework, education and employment support, coordination of activities and advocacy.
- Gloucestershire's Strategic Migration Partnership who oversee all of this work and liaise with the Home Office.



- GCC's Public Health and Communities team who have worked incredibly hard on all these schemes but especially the HFU rapid response team who coordinate all the required checks for hosts and welcome visits for guests
- All other groups and individuals who work tirelessly across the county to support and provide comfort to refugees, many of whom are suffering from severe trauma. This includes religious groups, volunteers and the charity sector.

As a thank you to all of these groups and individuals, council calls on cabinet to host a 'thank you' event to demonstrate our gratitude to everyone who has worked to make Gloucestershire a welcoming and hospitable county to those fleeing war, conflict and persecution.

And furthermore

- Council commits to marking UK Refugee Week annually to reflect on the experiences of refugees worldwide and to acknowledge and thank the many community and voluntary groups across Gloucestershire who have supported those fleeing persecution to find a new home in our county

Motion 929: Train Ticket pricing structure

Proposed: Cllr Alan Preest

Seconded: Cllr David Gray

The cost of a rail Adult return day ticket from Lydney to Gloucester currently costs £11.60. (Chepstow-Gloucester £13.20).

One price fits all, there are no off-peak concessions.

Travelling by train is more than a journey, it is and should be the ready-made solution to make our roads quieter and safer and improve the air quality.

Rail is an environmentally friendly way to travel and plays a critical role in helping to tackle climate change.

I propose that this Council write to the Transport for Wales overarching Authority, the Welsh Government, to ask them to explain their regulatory pricing structure particularly for the Chepstow -Lydney-Gloucester journeys and consider an overall fare reduction, but at the very least the creation of a more realistic off-peak day return fare , in anticipation of the potential economic benefits, tourism benefits and climate change.

9

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

Up to 45 minutes is allowed for this item.



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Cabinet Member Decision statements for the period 20 June 2023 to 4 September 2023 can be found at:

<https://glostext.gloucestershire.gov.uk/mgDelegatedDecisions.aspx?XXR=0&&DR=20%2f06%2f2023-04%2f09%2f2023&ACT=Find&RP=0&K=0&V=0&DM=3&HD=0&DS=2&Next=true&NOW=25072023103806&META=mgdelegateddecisions>

10 SCRUTINY REPORT (Pages 27 - 30)

RECORDING MEETINGS, INSPECTION OF PAPERS AND GENERAL QUERIES

– Please note that full Council meetings are webcast and may be viewed on the Council’s website (www.gloucestershire.gov.uk). If you wish to inspect reports relating to any item on this agenda or have any other general queries about the meeting, please contact:

Stephen Bace, Head of Democratic Services

☎ 01452 324204, email stephen.bace@gloucestershire.gov.uk

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